United Nations A/ES-10/529–S/2011/528

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 August 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 19 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This letter constitutes the 401st letter we have written to you since 28 September 2000. These letters have documented many, but not all, of Israel, the occupying Power's, ongoing violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law, including war crimes, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. These crimes by the occupying Power have not only continued to inflict harm and suffering on the Palestinian civilian population living under its 44-year-old occupation, but to fuel tensions and instability in the region and to cause the continued steep deterioration of the situation on the ground, including by stoking another cycle of lethal violence.

To add to the long list of criminal acts by Israel, the occupying Power, I must draw your attention to the intensification of military aggression by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip. Ten Palestinians have been killed and dozens more injured by a series of Israeli military air strikes against the Gaza Strip launched late on Thursday, 18 August 2011, and today. Among the innocent civilians brutally murdered by the occupying Power were two children, including 2-year-old Malek Khaled Shaath and 13-year-old Mahmoud Atef Abu Samra.

The attacks throughout the Gaza Strip also killed eight other Palestinians, including Abu Awad Al-Nairab, Emad Hammad, Emad Nasr, Khaled Al-Masri, Mohammed Innayeh and Samed Abed. Khaled Hamad Shaath, who was the father of the 2-year-old boy mentioned above, was also killed. In addition, more than 20 Palestinian civilians, mainly children and women, including a pregnant woman, were injured, in the aerial bombardments against various neighbourhoods and areas of the besieged Gaza Strip. Moreover, Ashraf Azzam died of injuries inflicted by Israeli air strikes that were carried out in the Gaza Strip a few days ago, as documented in our letter to you dated 17 August 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011-521).

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In an act of collective punishment, Israeli war planes also bombed an electric generator in the Al-Nuseirat refugee camp, causing a power outage that has plunged Gaza into darkness during the holy month of Ramadan. The threat of even more killings and destruction by the occupying Power looms very darkly over Gaza as Israeli officials, particularly the Prime Minister, are declaring that this onslaught is "only the beginning".

In light of the dangerous deterioration of the situation and escalation of tensions, the Palestinian leadership calls upon the international community, including the Security Council, to compel Israel to cease its military attacks against the Gaza Strip and to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and to cease forthwith all attacks against the Palestinian civilian population and all forms of military reprisals and collective punishment against them, including its dehumanizing and unlawful blockade. As the Palestinian leadership has done time and time again in the past, it continues to condemn the killing of all innocent civilians, whoever they maybe. Having said that, it must be recalled, however, that Israel, as an occupying Power, has responsibilities under international humanitarian law towards the civilian population it occupies and must also respect all human rights conventions, which are applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. We further stress the imperative of the protection of civilians living under foreign occupation in all circumstances.

The international community must not allow Israel, the occupying Power, to refuel the vicious cycle of violence that has claimed so many innocent lives and wrought vast destruction and devastation on the Palestinian people under its occupation. Nor can it allow Israel to act with impunity without repercussions as this can only, and will continue to, embolden the occupying Power to commit crimes without fear of punishment. Clearly, the situation demands immediate redress, which also includes real and genuine efforts towards ensuring accountability for all of the war crimes committed over the years by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 400 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 August 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011/521), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Identical letters dated 22 August 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that over the past few days, Israel, the occupying Power, continued its campaign of military aggression against the Occupied Palestinian Territory, assaulting the Gaza Strip with more air strikes, causing further death and injury to Palestinian civilians, and launching a large-scale military raid and arrest operation in the West Bank.

The Israeli military attacks against the Gaza Strip over the weekend raised the death toll among Palestinian civilians, with 15 people killed and more than 40 wounded since this latest military aggression began on 18 August 2011. Tragically, among the five Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since our last letter to you, on Friday, 19 August, were a doctor, his brother and his son, leaving behind yet another deeply traumatized family in the Gaza Strip. Those five most recent victims of Israel's aggression included an infant child, Islam Mo'taz Bassem Quraiqe, 1 year old; his father, Mo'taz Bassem Quraiqe, aged 29; Dr. Munzer Bassem Quraiqe, aged 33; Emad Fareed Abu Aabda, aged 21; and Anwar Hassan Saleem, aged 22. Further, among the dozens of Palestinians wounded, many have endured grave injuries, sustaining charring and burning of their bodies and the loss of lower and upper limbs, as a result of the vicious weaponry and ammunition used by the occupying Power against them.

In addition, the occupying forces caused extensive damage to Palestinian properties throughout the Gaza Strip in those military attacks, with civilian infrastructure bearing the brunt of the attacks. Such widespread destruction recalls the deliberate targeting by Israel, the occupying Power, of Palestinian properties and institutions during its criminal and barbaric December 2008-January 2009 military aggression against Gaza, the so-called "Operation Cast Lead", by which the occupying forces caused massive damage and destruction to Palestinian homes, water, sewage and electricity networks, schools, hospitals, agricultural properties and businesses, further crippling the functioning of society and the economy in

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Gaza and causing vast trauma to the civilian population, particularly children and women.

In this latest series of attacks, the Israeli occupying forces have caused damage to a physiotherapy clinic, the only one of its kind in Gaza, which was run by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; four water pumps for the sewage system in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp; an electricity generator, also in Al-Nuseirat; the office of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which had been coordinating and delivering humanitarian aid to the civilian population; and several other properties housing Government institutions and civil society organizations. Needless to say, the destruction caused to the water, sewage and electrical infrastructure has further intensified the hardship being suffered by the Palestinian people in the besieged and blockaded Gaza Strip in the heat of this month of August, which also coincides with the holy month of Ramadan.

The Palestinian leadership condemns in the strongest terms these Israeli military attacks and the killing and wounding of Palestinian civilians and destruction to properties and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. We call for action, including by the Security Council, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for these crimes of aggression and brutality, including deliberate reprisals and collective punishment, against the Palestinian people and to bring to an immediate end this renewed cycle of violence. Moreover, we reiterate the need to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the entirety of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the provisions and obligations enshrined in international humanitarian law and the direct commitment repeatedly made by the Security Council in this regard.

Today, I must also draw your attention to the simultaneous escalation of Israeli military operations throughout the West Bank, signalling a deliberate Israeli attempt to intensify tensions and confrontations on all fronts. Yesterday, 21 August, the Israeli occupying forces raided Al-Khalil (Hebron) and the surrounding area in the West Bank with a massive force, including over 100 military vehicles. The occupying army forcibly raided homes and arrested over 60 people in Al-Khalil and dozens of others in other areas, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The Israeli military raids also caused injury to dozens of Palestinians and damage to Palestinian homes. We stress the need to address this crisis and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all such acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and to abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, including with regard to its treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, whose immediate release the Palestinian leadership continues to demand.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 401 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 August 2011 (A/ES-10/529-S/2011/528), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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22 August 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous correspondence with you and, through you, the esteemed members of the Security Council, about the situation in South Kordofan, in particular my letter dated 17 August 2011 regarding the composition of a national committee to assess the human rights situation in South Kordofan, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in his kind efforts to mediate between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Northern Sector, visited Khartoum yesterday and held a meeting with Mr. Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan. It is worth mentioning that the leader of SPLA, Northern Sector, Mr. Malik Agar, participated in that meeting. The objective of the meeting was to lay down the basis for a peaceful settlement of the situation in South Kordofan. I deemed it necessary to share with you this important development, and will keep you informed of the final results.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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United Nations S/2011/531

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter to you dated 17 August 2011 regarding the establishment of a national committee to assess the human rights situation in South Kordofan, I have the honour to further inform you that the competent Sudanese authorities have begun, in close coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations agencies in the Sudan, to facilitate the channelling of relief materials to the needy people in South Kordofan.

It is worth mentioning that I conveyed the same information to Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, in a letter dated 22 August 2011, a copy of which is attached herewith (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my meeting with you, and as promised, kindly be informed that the relevant Sudanese authorities have begun, in full and active cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and with a number of United Nations agencies and organizations in the Sudan, to coordinate the channelling of relief materials to the needy people in South Kordofan.

While informing you about this development, I would like to assure you that I will be in close contact with you to facilitate the coordination of humanitarian assistance in South Kordofan.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative